



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html

MAY 1, 2006

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*Court documents associated with this case will be available to download
from the district's Web site at*

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/koenigsdorf_information.pdf

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/koenigsdorf_plea.pdf

CHURCH TREASURER PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING \$297,000

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the former treasurer of Central United Methodist Church pleaded guilty in federal court today to stealing \$297,000 from the church.

Keith B. Koenigsdorf, 50, of Overland Park, Kan., waived his right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to an information that charges him with interstate transportation of stolen property.

Koenigsdorf admitted that, beginning in November 1999, he began embezzling money from Central United Methodist Church, 5144 Oak Street in Kansas City. **Koenigsdorf**, an attorney, served as the treasurer and a member of the board of trustees of the church and was an authorized signatory on church checks. Central United Methodist's policy required all expense payments to be approved by the board of trustees, with two authorized signatures on each church check.

Koenigsdorf stole the funds, Schlozman explained, by taking blank checks which already bore a signature from an authorized signatory, adding his own signature, making the check payable to himself, and then depositing the check into his law firm's operating account at Bank of America in Overland Park. **Koenigsdorf** used these funds to pay for personal and business expenses.

Beginning in late February 2003, **Koenigsdorf** began forging the signature of the second

authorized signatory on church checks used to embezzle funds, because Central United Methodist stopped providing blank checks already signed by an authorized signatory.

Koenigsdorf would forge the signature of a second authorized signatory, make the check payable to himself, and deposit the check into his law firm's bank account.

Koenigsdorf's embezzlement was discovered at some point after July 20, 2004.

Koenigsdorf wrote approximately 90 checks drawn on Central United Methodist's bank account, Schlozman said, resulting in a total loss of approximately \$297,000 in church funds.

Central United Methodist has its bank account at a Bank of America branch in Kansas City, Mo., Schlozman explained that, because **Koenigsdorf** deposited the church check into the account of his law firm, a sole proprietorship, at a Bank of America branch in Overland Park, the transfer of funds constituted the interstate transportation of stolen property.

Under federal statutes, **Koenigsdorf** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000 and an order of restitution. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html